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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: TAIWAN'S WHO BID, CHINA-JAPAN RELATIONS

11. Summary: Several of Taiwan's major Chinese-language dailies gave front-page coverage April 17 to the mass shooting in a U.S. college Monday, while the others continued to focus on the 2008 presidential elections and other local political issues. In terms of editorials and commentaries, an editorial in the pro-status quo "China Times" criticized the Taiwan government's attempt to apply for membership for the World Health Organization (WHO) under the name "Taiwan" as a show simply for domestic campaign purposes. An op-ed piece in the limited-circulation, pro-independence, English-language "Taipei Times," however, argued that "this is the correct course for Taiwan to pursue." With regard to Chinese Prime Minister Wen Jiabao's recent visit to Japan, an editorial in the limited-circulation, conservative, pro-unification, English-language "China Post" said both China and Japan "should work together to head off any attempts by the ultra-nationalists to sour bilateral feelings." An editorial in the limited-circulation, pro-independence, English-language "Taiwan News" urged Beijing to join the international system as a responsible stakeholder." End summary.

## 12. Taiwan's WHO Bid

A) "Does [Taiwan] Really Want to Join the WHO, or It Has Simply Put On a Show Aimed at Manipulating Campaigning?"

The pro-status quo "China Times" [circulation: 400,000] editorialized (4/17):

"... The problem is that we really cannot tell what powerful bargaining chips or channels Taiwan has obtained recently that are capable of increasing the island's chances to participate in this year's World Health Assembly (WHA), let alone the more difficult attempt to become a member of the World Health Organization (WHO). ... Frankly speaking, not only is this year's situation no different from that of last year, but it has also become more unfavorable for Taiwan's participation [in the WHA]. Other than the fact that the United Nations only recognizes China's fundamental policy, Beijing also signed a memorandum of understanding with the WHO in 2005, which specifies that, should experts from Taiwan want to participate in WHO conferences, they must apply using city names such as Taipei or Kaohsiung. Also, Taiwan's name will become 'Taiwan, China,' meaning that Taiwan is part of China. Such an adverse framework has restricted any possible status that Taiwan could use to attend the conferences, let alone the possibility of becoming a full member [of the world body].

"Second, the United States has been a major driving force that protects Taiwan's security and assists Taiwan in terms of the latter's room for maneuver in the international community. But as we recall what has happened [between the two sides], [we need to ask the questions:] Have U.S.-Taiwan relations improved or deteriorated in the wake of the campaigning manipulative moves such as the 'one country on either side of the Taiwan Strait' remarks and the controversy over the 'cessation of the National Unification

Council'? Has the United States become more enthusiastic or dispirited in supporting Taiwan's participation in the international activities? ...

"To put it bluntly, this is just another political move for domestic consumption only. After a series of name change campaigns for state-owned enterprises, now [the government] is saying out loud that [we] want to join the WHO under the name 'Taiwan.' In September, it will say even louder that [we] want to join the United Nations under the name 'Taiwan,' which will be followed by a move 'to bundle a referendum with the election' during the year-end elections, or even a referendum to see if the name of the nation needs to be changed. Only one thing matters for all these beautiful dreams woven with the name of 'Taiwan' to lure Green voters and to antagonize ethnic confrontations: victory in the elections. It really does not matter whether Taiwan can enter the WHO or UN. ..."

#### B) "Membership Bid for the WHO Is the Correct Way"

Chen Lung-chu, chairman of the New Century Foundation and director of the Taiwan United Nations Alliance, opined in the pro-independence, English-language "Taipei Times" [circulation: 30,000] (4/17):

"... The WHO charter stipulates that membership is open to all countries, not just those in the UN. For Chen to use his position as head of state and representative of Taiwan's 23 million people to apply for membership is an extremely important first step in the nation's bid to join the WHO. Not only does it highlight that Taiwan is a sovereign and independent nation, but it also makes it clear that Taiwan wants to participate fully in the WHO, and that it is willing and determined to contribute to improving the health of all the world's people. In consideration of its fundamental and long-term interests, this is the correct course for Taiwan to pursue. ...

"All WHO members are countries, whereas that is not necessarily true of observers. Fighting for an observer spot could easily mislead the international community into thinking that Taiwan is not an independent and sovereign state. ... In the past we sought to become WHA observers, but we have now entered a new stage of actively pursuing full WHO membership. As long as we choose the right direction, and people work closely together with the government with trust and resolve, our shared determination will see us through to success."

### 13. China-Japan Relations

#### A) "No United Nation's Security Council Seat for Japan"

The conservative, pro-unification, English-language "China Post" [circulation: 30,000] editorialized (4/17):

"Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao scored more points than his Japanese host, Prime Minister Shintaro [sic] Abe, from his two-and-a-half-day visit to Japan last week. The visitor showed his big heart, but his host didn't get what he wanted. Wen's message: China won't allow Japan to join the U.N. Security Council this year, or in later years, if Japan does not renounce militarism. And the U.S. can do little to change the Chinese mind. ...

"2007 marks the 70th anniversary of the Marco Polo Bridge Incident and the Nanking Massacre. Both countries should work together to head off any attempts by the ultra-nationalists to sour bilateral feelings. ... A key sign of further warmth will be Abe's return visit to Beijing later this year, followed by a possible visit to Tokyo by China's President Hu Jintao."

#### B) "Taking a Long View on Sino-Japan Ties"

The pro-independence, English-language "Taiwan News" [circulation: 20,000] editorialized (4/17):

"... From Taiwan's standpoint, the most noteworthy aspect of Wen's visit was the refusal of the Japanese government to budge on its policy toward Taiwan and its retaining a stance of 'strategic

ambiguity' on Taiwan's status by acknowledging the PRC as the 'one China' but not bowing to Beijing's pressure to specify that Taiwan was part of the PRC. Moreover, Tokyo continued to align itself with Washington's call for direct dialogue between the PRC and Taiwan governments and peaceful resolution of cross-strait disputes. ...

"As long as the PRC does not begin to respect the values of democracy, fundamental civic and social liberties and human rights but continues to insist on seeing itself as the center of the world and refuses to abandon its ambition to annex Taiwan, there will remain the danger of regional conflict. However, if the PRC can join the international system as a responsible stakeholder and accept the prevailing values of the global system and respect the free will of the 23 million people of Taiwan, and an Asia featuring democracy, peace and progress, it will have the potential to complement if not supplement the U.S. and Europe as a driver of global development. ..."

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